

United States policies, procedures, and plans as it relates to critical minerals, including—

(i) Federal research, development, and deployment efforts to optimize methods for extractions, concentration, separation, and purification of conventional, secondary, and unconventional sources of critical minerals, including research that prioritizes end-to-end integration of mining and recycling techniques and the end-use target for critical minerals;

(ii) efficient use and reuse of critical minerals, including recycling technologies for critical minerals and the reclamation of critical minerals from components such as spent batteries;

(iii) addressing the technology transitions between research or lab-scale mining and recycling and commercialization of these technologies;

(iv) the critical minerals workforce of the United States; and

(v) United States private industry investments in innovation and technology transfer from federally funded science and technology;

(B) to identify emerging opportunities, stimulate international cooperation, and foster the development of secure and reliable supply chains of critical minerals, including activities related to the reuse of critical minerals via recycling;

(C) to ensure the transparency of information and data related to critical minerals; and

(D) to provide recommendations on coordination and collaboration among the research, development, and deployment programs and activities of Federal agencies to promote a secure and reliable supply of critical minerals necessary to maintain national security, economic well-being, and industrial production.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Subcommittee may, taking into account the findings and recommendations of relevant advisory committees—

(A) provide recommendations on how Federal agencies may improve the topographic, geologic, and geophysical mapping of the United States and improve the discoverability, accessibility, and usability of the resulting and existing data, to the extent permitted by law and subject to appropriate limitation for purposes of privacy and security;

(B) assess the progress toward developing critical minerals recycling and reprocessing technologies;

(C) assess the end-to-end lifecycle of critical minerals, including for mining, usage, recycling, and end-use material and technology requirements;

(D) examine options for accessing and developing critical minerals through investment and trade with allies and partners of the United States and provide recommendations;

(E) evaluate and provide recommendations to incentivize the development and use of advances in science and technology in the private industry;

(F) assess the need for and make recommendations to address the challenges the United States critical minerals supply chain workforce faces, including—

(i) aging and retiring personnel and faculty;

(ii) public perceptions about the nature of mining and mineral processing; and

(iii) foreign competition for United States talent;

(G) develop, and update as necessary, a strategic plan to guide Federal programs and activities to enhance—

(i) scientific and technical capabilities across critical mineral supply chains, includ-

ing a roadmap that identifies key research and development needs and coordinates ongoing activities for source diversification, more efficient use, recycling, and substitution for critical minerals; and

(ii) cross-cutting mining science, data science techniques, materials science, manufacturing science and engineering, computational modeling, and environmental health and safety research and development; and

(H) report to the appropriate committees of Congress on activities and findings under this subsection.

(4) MANDATORY RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out paragraphs (1) and (2), the Subcommittee shall, taking into account the findings and recommendations of the relevant advisory committees, identify and evaluate Federal policies and regulations that restrict the mining of critical minerals.

(c) GRANT PROGRAM FOR PROCESSING OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND METALS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Director, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall establish a grant program to finance pilot projects for—

(A) the processing or recycling of critical minerals in the United States; or

(B) the development of critical minerals and metals in the United States

(2) LIMITATION ON GRANT AWARDS.—A grant awarded under paragraph (1) may not exceed \$10,000,000.

(3) ECONOMIC VIABILITY.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Energy shall give priority to projects that the Secretary of Energy determines are likely to be economically viable over the long term.

(4) SECONDARY RECOVERY.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Energy shall seek to award not less than 30 percent of the total amount of grants awarded during the fiscal year for projects relating to secondary recovery of critical minerals and metals.

(5) DOMESTIC PRIORITY.—In awarding grants for the development of critical minerals and metals under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary of Energy shall prioritize pilot projects that will process the critical minerals and metals domestically.

(6) PROHIBITION ON PROCESSING BY FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Energy shall ensure that pilot projects do not export for processing any critical minerals and metals to a foreign entity of concern (as defined in section 2307(a)).

(7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2024 to carry out the grant program established under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term “critical mineral” has the meaning given the term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)).

(2) CRITICAL MINERALS AND METALS.—The term “critical minerals and metals” includes any host mineral of a critical mineral.

(3) END-TO-END.—The term “end-to-end”, with respect to the integration of mining or life cycle of minerals, means the integrated approach of, or the lifecycle determined by, examining the research and developmental process from the mining of the raw minerals to its processing into useful materials, its integration into components and devices, the utilization of such devices in the end-use application to satisfy certain performance metrics, and the recycling or disposal of such devices.

(4) RECYCLING.—The term “recycling” means the process of collecting and processing spent materials and devices and turning them into raw materials or components that can be reused either partially or completely.

(5) SECONDARY RECOVERY.—The term “secondary recovery” means the recovery of critical minerals and metals from discarded end-use products or from waste products produced during the metal refining and manufacturing process, including from mine waste piles, acid mine drainage sludge, or byproducts produced through legacy mining and metallurgy activities.

SA 2084. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1977 submitted by Mr. MERKLEY and intended to be proposed to the amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 1, strike line 3 and all that follows through page 3, line 22, and insert the following:

SEC. 3219L. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STANDING WITH AUSTRALIA AGAINST ECONOMIC COERCION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the alliance between the United States and Australia provides strategic, economic, and cultural value to both nations;

(2) the security and prosperity of each is vital to the future security and prosperity of both nations;

(3) the close, longstanding cooperation between the United States and Australia in strategic and military affairs is built on strong bonds of trust between the two nations and a shared goal of establishing a free, open, secure, prosperous, and resilient Indo-Pacific;

(4) Australia continues to be the target of a concerted campaign of economic coercion by the People's Republic of China aimed at punishing the government and people of one of the United States' closest allies for the exercise of their sovereign, democratic rights;

(5) the People's Republic of China employs similar forms of economic coercion against other countries, not only within the Indo-Pacific but around the world;

(6) such a campaign is an attempt to undermine the sovereignty of Australia and the ability of the Government of Australia to act in concert with the United States toward the shared goal of a free and open Indo-Pacific; and

(7) the routine use of economic coercion by the People's Republic of China against other countries can undermine those countries' ability to speak or act in defense of their own sovereignty, democratic values, and human rights, and is therefore a threat to a free and open global order.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to stand with Australia, providing relevant support to the Government and people of Australia to mitigate the costs of economic coercion by the People's Republic of China to the greatest extent possible;

(2) to work with the Government of Australia and other allies and partners to coordinate collective, cooperative responses to both threatened and actual instances of economic coercion by the People's Republic of China; and

(3) to put in place the appropriate personnel, mechanisms, and collective structures to facilitate the effectiveness of responses to economic coercion.

SA 2085. Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 341, strike line 22 and all that follows through page 342, line 19, and insert the following:

(1) DETERMINATION RELATED TO CERTAIN OPTICAL TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT.—

(1) **PROCEEDING.**—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this division, the Secretary of Commerce shall commence a process to make a determination for purposes of section 2 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601) whether future transactions involving optical transmission equipment that is manufactured, produced, or distributed by an entity owned, controlled, or supported by the People's Republic of China and that is capable of routing or redirecting user data traffic or permitting visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or handles would pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States or the security and safety of United States persons.

(2) **COMMUNICATION OF DETERMINATION.**—If the Secretary determines pursuant to paragraph (1) that future transactions involving such optical transmission equipment would pose an unacceptable risk consistent with that paragraph, the Secretary shall immediately transmit that determination to the Federal Communications Commission consistent with section 2 of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1601).

SA 2086. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1502 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III of division F, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . WORKER OWNERSHIP, READINESS, AND KNOWLEDGE.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **EXISTING PROGRAM.**—The term “existing program” means a program, designed to pro-

mote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking, that exists on the date on which the Secretary is carrying out a responsibility authorized under this section.

(2) **INITIATIVE.**—The term “Initiative” means the Employee Ownership and Participation Initiative established under subsection (b).

(3) **NEW PROGRAM.**—The term “new program” means a program, designed to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking, that does not exist on the date on which the Secretary is carrying out a responsibility authorized under this section.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(5) **STATE.**—The term “State” has the meaning given the term under section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(b) EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION INITIATIVE.—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish within the Department of Commerce an Employee Ownership and Participation Initiative to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking.

(2) **FUNCTIONS.**—In carrying out the Initiative, the Secretary shall—

(A) support within the States existing programs designed to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking; and

(B) facilitate within the States the formation of new programs designed to promote employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking.

(3) **DUTIES.**—To carry out the functions enumerated in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

(A) support new programs and existing programs by—

(i) making Federal grants authorized under subsection (d); and

(ii) (I) acting as a clearinghouse on techniques employed by new programs and existing programs within the States, and disseminating information relating to those techniques to the programs; or

(II) funding projects for information gathering on those techniques, and dissemination of that information to the programs, by groups outside the Department of Commerce; and

(B) facilitate the formation of new programs, in ways that include holding or funding an annual conference of representatives from States with existing programs, representatives from States developing new programs, and representatives from States without existing programs.

(c) PROGRAMS REGARDING EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION.—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a program to encourage new programs and existing programs within the States to foster employee ownership and employee participation in business decisionmaking throughout the United States.

(2) **PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.**—The purpose of the program established under paragraph (1) is to encourage new and existing programs within the States that focus on—

(A) providing education and outreach to inform employees and employers about the possibilities and benefits of employee ownership, business ownership succession planning, and employee participation in business decisionmaking, including providing information about financial education, employee teams, open-book management, and other tools that enable employees to share ideas

and information about how their businesses can succeed;

(B) providing technical assistance to assist employee efforts to become business owners, to enable employers and employees to explore and assess the feasibility of transferring full or partial ownership to employees, and to encourage employees and employers to start new employee-owned businesses;

(C) training employees and employers with respect to methods of employee participation in open-book management, work teams, committees, and other approaches for seeking greater employee input; and

(D) training other entities to apply for funding under this subsection, to establish new programs, and to carry out program activities.

(3) **PROGRAM DETAILS.**—The Secretary may include, in the program established under paragraph (1), provisions that—

(A) in the case of activities described in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) target key groups, such as retiring business owners, senior managers, unions, trade associations, community organizations, and economic development organizations;

(ii) encourage cooperation in the organization of workshops and conferences; and

(iii) prepare and distribute materials concerning employee ownership and participation, and business ownership succession planning;

(B) in the case of activities described in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) provide preliminary technical assistance to employee groups, managers, and retiring owners exploring the possibility of employee ownership;

(ii) provide for the performance of preliminary feasibility assessments;

(iii) assist in the funding of objective third-party feasibility studies and preliminary business valuations, and in selecting and monitoring professionals qualified to conduct such studies; and

(iv) provide a data bank to help employees find legal, financial, and technical advice in connection with business ownership;

(C) in the case of activities described in paragraph (2)(C)—

(i) provide for courses on employee participation; and

(ii) provide for the development and fostering of networks of employee-owned companies to spread the use of successful participation techniques; and

(D) in the case of training described in paragraph (2)(D)—

(i) provide for visits to existing programs by staff from new programs receiving funding under this section; and

(ii) provide materials to be used for such training.

(4) **GUIDANCE.**—The Secretary shall issue formal guidance, for recipients of grants awarded under subsection (d) and one-stop partners (as defined in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102)) affiliated with the workforce development systems (as so defined) of the States, proposing that programs and other activities funded under this section be—

(A) proactive in encouraging actions and activities that promote employee ownership of, and participation in, businesses; and

(B) comprehensive in emphasizing both employee ownership of, and participation in, businesses so as to increase productivity and broaden capital ownership.

(d) GRANTS.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out the program established under subsection (c), the Secretary may make grants for use in connection with new programs and existing programs within a State for any of the following activities: